



Economic Overview And Outlook: Arkansas

JOBS

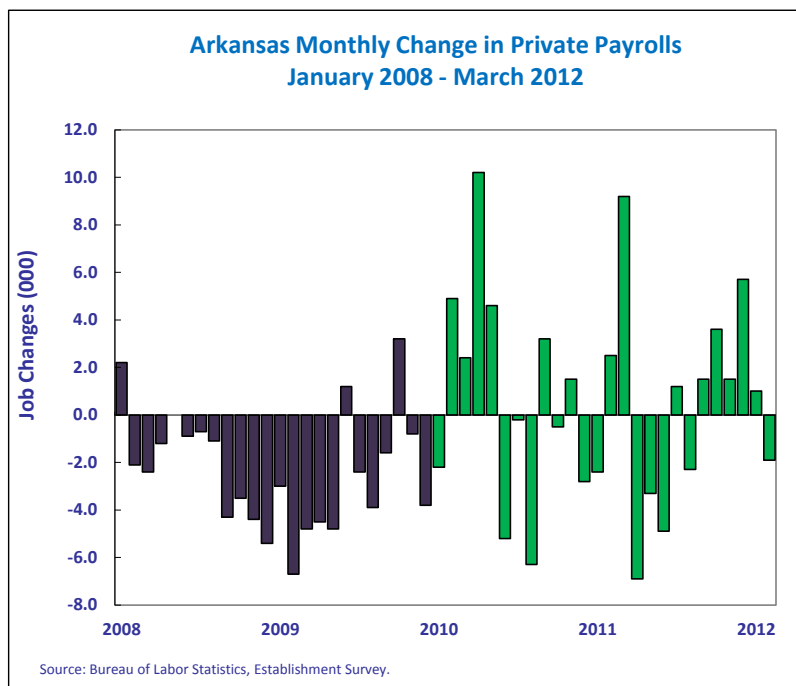
- Including March, the private sector has gained jobs nationwide for 25 consecutive months.
- In Arkansas, private sector employment fell by 6.1 percent from January 2008 to February 2010. Since February 2010, private sector employment has grown by 1.2 percent.
- In Arkansas, employees in the manufacturing, construction, and information services sectors faced the largest job losses (as a percent of employment within an industry) over the recession. Since the beginning of 2010, the following sectors in Arkansas have experienced the greatest employment increases: mining; leisure and hospitality; and education and health services.*
- As the economy continues its emergence from the Great Recession, service-providing industries are projected to add the most jobs between 2010 and 2020. The largest gains over this period are expected to occur in the healthcare and social assistance, professional and business services, and retail trade sectors. Job gains in the goods-producing sector of the economy will be led by the construction and mining industries while the number of manufacturing jobs is expected to fall.

EMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Arkansas was 7.4 percent in March 2012, 2.3 percentage points from December 2007, but down from its most recent peak of 8.2 percent in July 2011.
- 103,000 Arkansas residents were counted among the unemployed in Arkansas during March 2012.
- In Arkansas, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 16,986 during March, up 8.2 percent from the previous month. Since peaking at 37,251 in February 2009, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits in Arkansas have declined by 54.4 percent.

EARNINGS

- Between the start of the recession in the 4th quarter of 2007 and the 3rd quarter of 2009, inflation-adjusted total personal income in the United States declined 4.6 percent. Most recently, in the 4th quarter of 2011, total personal income is 0.9 percent above its 4th quarter of 2007 level.



- Real per capita personal income (in 2005 \$) in Arkansas was \$29,762.70 in the 4th quarter of 2011, up from \$29,001.50 in the 4th quarter of 2009.

HOUSING

- After peaking in the first quarter of 2007, national home prices declined by 16.6 percent over 17 quarters. Between the second quarter of 2011 and the fourth quarter of 2011, the most recent quarter, national home prices rose by 1.4 percent.
- In Arkansas, home prices fell by 5.6 percent over 9 quarters from their peak in the first quarter of 2009. Since the second quarter of 2011, home prices in Arkansas have risen by 1.1 percent.
- As of the 4th quarter of 2011, 2.0 percent of all mortgages, including 6.0 percent of subprime mortgages, were in foreclosure in Arkansas.
- Housing starts in Arkansas totaled 9,480 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2012, an increase of 86.6 percent from January.
- Within the South census region, which includes Arkansas, sales of new single-family homes totaled 168,000 units in February 2012, a decrease of 7.2 percent from January. Sales of existing single-family homes decreased 0.6 percent to 1,530,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from February to March 2012.

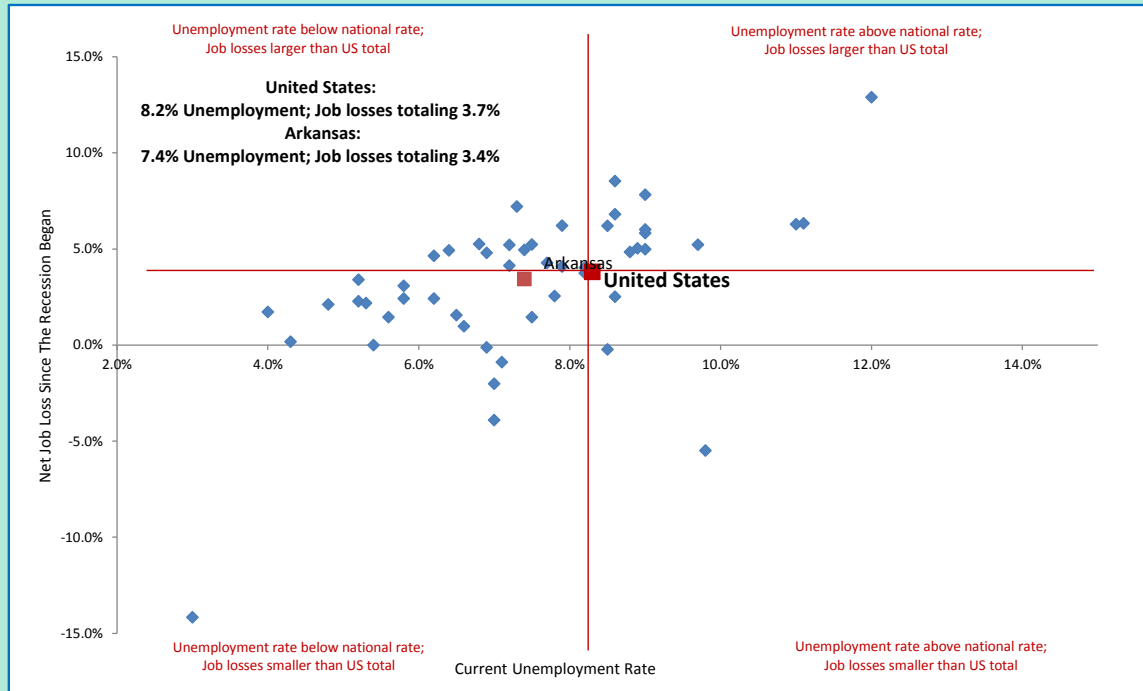
* For Arkansas-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Arkansas office: <http://www.discoverarkansas.net/>

How Does Arkansas Compare To Other States?

Workers across the country were hard hit during the Great Recession. Although labor markets in many states have started recovering, employment in most states still remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows you to compare Arkansas to other states using two metrics.

The current unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor market conditions faced by residents, while the proportion of jobs lost within Arkansas since the start of the recession (shown along the vertical axis) measures the toll the recession took on the job supply in Arkansas.

States falling in the upper right quadrant have lost a disproportionate share of jobs, relative to the total United States, and have unemployment rates higher than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower left quadrant have unemployment rates job losses (or even gains) lower than the national average.



STATE QUICK FACTS

		Arkansas	United States
Unemployment Rates	March 2009	7.3%	8.7%
	March 2010	7.9%	9.8%
	March 2011	8.0%	8.9%
	March 2012	7.4%	8.2%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2011	10.5%	9.4%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2011	8.5%	8.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2011	4.3%	12.1%
Median Household Income	2007	\$ 42,898	\$ 52,823
	(2010 \$) 2010	\$ 38,571	\$ 49,445
Poverty Rate	2007	13.8%	12.5%
	2010	15.5%	15.1%
No Health Insurance	2007	16.1%	15.3%
	2010	18.7%	16.3%